

MAR 12 2007

Docket No. J11L07  
Application No. 10/783,527

## REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Appeldorn et al. (US 5,432,876) in view of newly cited reference, Fisher et al. (US 6,832,025). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Appeldorn in view of Fisher as applied to claim 1, and further in review of Hulse et al. (6,550,950). Claims 3-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Appeldorn in view of Fisher as applied to claim 1, and further in review of Keplinger (US 5,345,531).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly define the invention. No new matter adds through the amendments.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Appeldorn et al. (US 5,432,876) in view of Fisher (US 6,832,025).

The present invention is directed to a plastic optical fiber bundle. As recited in claim 1, the plastic optical fiber bundle comprises a plurality of plastic optical fibers, each having an inner core layer and an outer layer, wherein the outer layer of said plastic optical fiber is formed with a plurality of depressions for producing a light leak effect, **the depressions expose the inner core layer, but do not extend into the inner core layer** of said plastic optical fiber.

Appeldorn clearly fails to teach or suggest such a plastic optical fiber bundle. As admitted in the Office Action, Appeldorn does not teach "each plastic optical fiber having an inner core layer and an outer layer, wherein the outer layer of said plastic optical fiber is formed with a plurality of

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depressions, the depressions not extending into the inner core layer of the plastic optical fiber”.

Fisher was cited to teach these missing elements. The Office Action alleged that Fisher teaches “each plastic optical fiber having an inner core layer (12) and an outer layer (10), wherein the outer layer of the plastic optical fiber is formed with a plurality of depressions (11), the depressions not extending into the inner core layer of the plastic optical fiber (Fig. 1A)”.

However, Fisher fails to teach or suggest that the depressions expose the inner core layer as required by the amended claim 1. As clearly shown in Fig. 1A, the notches 11 are formed on outer layer 10, but do not penetrate outer layer 10 and do not expose inner core layer 12. In fact, Fisher expressly states that “[T]he notches 11 are not deep enough to reach the core 12 of the fiber 10, and so the effective refractive index of the fiber is substantially unchanged by the cutting of the notches 11”. Col. 4, lines 36-39. It is clear that, in order to keep the effective refractive index of the fiber substantially unchanged by the cutting of the notches 11, Fisher requires that notches 11 be not deep enough to reach the core 12. Therefore, Fisher teaches against the exposure of the inner core layer by notches 11

For reasons discussed above, Fisher cannot cure the deficiencies of Appeldorn, and claim 1 is patentable over Appeldorn and Fisher.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Appeldorn in view of Fisher as applied to claim 1, and further in review of Hulse et al. (6,550,950).

Hulse was cited to teach a connector in an illumination device. However, Hulse cannot cure the above discussed deficiencies of Appeldorn and Fisher. Therefore, claim 1 as well as its dependent claim 2 are patentable over Appeldorn, Fisher and Hulse.

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Claims 3-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Appeldorn in view of Fisher as applied to claim 1, and further in review of Keplinger (US 5,345,531).

Keplinger was cited to supply various elements missing from Appeldorn and Fisher. However, Keplinger cannot cure the above discussed deficiencies of Appeldorn and Fisher. Therefore, claim 1 as well as its dependent claims 3-10 are patentable over Appeldorn, Fisher and Keplinger.

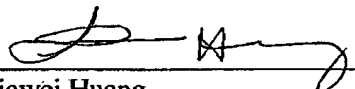
### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectively submitted  
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